



6 July 2026

Hon. Mark Butler, MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Minister,

**Statement of Intent from Cancer Australia to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon. Mark Butler MP**

This Statement of Intent responds to the Ministerial Statement of Expectations provided by you to Cancer Australia on 2 March 2026 in relation to government policies and objectives relevant to the agency's priorities and statutory functions under the *Cancer Australia Act 2006* (Cancer Australia Act).

The Statement of Intent identifies how Cancer Australia will deliver on the expectation to achieve its statutory functions and the priorities outlined in the Australian Cancer Plan (ACP).

**Implementation of the Australian Cancer Plan**

Cancer Australia will lead and drive the implementation of the ACP, including progressing delivery of its five-year goals. This will be achieved through strong cross-sector collaboration, and through ongoing monitoring and evaluation to support improved experiences and outcomes for all Australians affected by cancer.

Guided by the Leadership Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Control, the agency will accelerate progress towards Closing the Gap and improve access to culturally safe, appropriate cancer treatment and care for First Nations peoples. It will include effective stewardship of the agency's key components of the *Improving First Nations Cancer Outcomes* measure, including the *Partnerships for Cancer Research* initiative, the *Partnerships for Culturally Safe Cancer Care* program and the *First Nations Cancer Scholarships*, along with emerging priorities identified by the Leadership Group.

Together, these initiatives are enhancing collaboration and building capacity by supporting First Nations-led research, developing the next generation of leaders in this field and continuing to drive critical improvements in culturally safe care in mainstream cancer services. This collaborative investment is strengthening connections between First Nations organisations, academic institutions and health services.

In consultation with the cancer research sector, Cancer Australia will help determine national cancer research priorities to guide investment decisions by Government and the broader sector.

Cancer Australia will directly invest in cancer research priorities through the *Cancer Australia Research Initiative* and *Richard Scolyer Chair in Brain Cancer Research* grant programs. Cancer Australia will also continue to invest in Australia's national multi-site Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Groups through the *Support for Cancer Clinical Trials* program.

Cancer Australia will strengthen national collaboration and improve access to the best available care for all patients, regardless of where they live, by supporting the growth of the Australian Comprehensive Cancer Network. Harnessing the expertise and commitment of the Network's members, the agency will enhance cross-jurisdictional linkages between Comprehensive Cancer Centres, a broad range of other cancer services and the primary care sector to drive excellence and support the delivery of optimal cancer care across all regions of Australia.

Cancer Australia will support the integration of genomics into cancer control by driving implementation of the *National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control*, including through the Cancer Genomics Clinical Trials Fund.

The agency will promote consistent, high quality and evidence-based cancer care through implementation of the *National Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) Framework*. This will include the development and maintenance of OCPs, increasing awareness and uptake, and supporting their effective integration into routine cancer care.

Cancer Australia will lead the national coordination of implementation actions under the *National Cancer Data Framework*, which sets the strategic direction

and priorities for the collection, management, use and ongoing development of comprehensive and consistent data to improve cancer outcomes.

In line with the ACP, Cancer Australia will develop and deliver a Roadmap to improve experiences and outcomes for children, adolescents and young adults by guiding policy and investment decision-making across the sector. Its ambitions and underlying framework are centred on three pillars: enhancing supportive care, enabling better access to emerging technologies and ensuring targeted investment into research and clinical trials.

### **Consultation, Advice and International Engagement**

Cancer Australia will provide timely, evidence-based advice to Government and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing on new and emerging cancer issues, trends and technologies. This will include advice on areas of growing significance such as the rising incidence of early onset cancers, early detection of prostate and liver cancers, and the development and application of emerging and novel therapies, including Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR T) therapy, proton beam therapy and cancer vaccines.

To achieve this, Cancer Australia will convene a range of standing and time-limited advisory groups to draw on jurisdictional, clinical and technical expertise. The agency will work collaboratively across the portfolio to support alignment with government policy and priorities.

Recognising the value of consultation, Cancer Australia will actively engage with consumers and community members, including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals, researchers and people affected by cancer, to ensure the appropriate and culturally informed design of cancer policy and programs.

Cancer Australia will also lead Australia's technical engagement with global cancer control partners, particularly within the Asia Pacific region. Through this engagement, the agency will leverage international expertise, evidence and emerging practice to inform priority areas of work across the portfolio and support improved cancer outcomes domestically.

In alignment with your expectation and priorities of the government, Cancer Australia remains committed to improving outcomes for people affected by cancer by leading and coordinating national, evidence-based interventions across the continuum of care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Keefe'.

Professor Dorothy Keefe PSM MD

Chief Executive Officer